

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

New Melones Lake Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Final Scoping Summary Report



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
Central California Area Office

June 2007

This page intentionally left blank.

Summary

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, is preparing a resource management plan/environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS) for Reclamation-managed lands located at New Melones Lake in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The New Melones Lake Area is managed by Reclamation's Central California Area Office (CCAO), part of its Mid-Pacific Region.

The RMP/EIS will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate contemporary resources and recreation needs for the New Melones Lake Area, while ensuring the Eastside Division of the Central Valley Project continues to meet its authorized purposes of flood control, water supply, power, recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife enhancement. Public involvement for the New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS is being conducted in five phases:

- Public scoping prior to NEPA analysis to determine the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the RMP/EIS;
- Public outreach via project updates, a project Web site, news releases, and newspaper advertisements;
- Collaboration with Federal, State, local, and tribal governments;
- Public review and comment on the draft alternatives developed to frame the analysis of the RMP/EIS evaluation; and
- Public review and comment on the draft RMP/EIS, which analyzes likely environmental effects and identifies Reclamation's preferred alternative.

This report documents the results of the first three phases of the public involvement process.

Public Scoping Activities

Scoping allows agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties to identify or suggest resources to be evaluated, issues that may require environmental review, reasonable alternatives to consider, and potential mitigation (ways to reduce or avoid environmental impacts) if significant adverse effects are identified. Scoping also allows Reclamation to clearly set the parameters of the environmental review process by determining which issues will be addressed in the environmental documentation provides a rationale for those determinations. Lastly, scoping provides decision makers with insight into the analyses that the public believes should be considered as part of the RMP/EIS process. The formal public scoping process for the New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS began on December 18, 2006, with the publication of the notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal*

Register. The NOI initiated the public scoping process and notified the public of Reclamation's intent to develop an RMP/EIS for the New Melones Lake Area.

The public was notified of the scoping meetings by several media. The project Web site at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/field_offices/new_melones/index.html, provides background information about the project, a public involvement timeline and calendar, maps and photos of the planning area, and copies of public information documents, such as the NOI and project update. A project update was mailed on January 22, 2007, to 791 individuals from the public, agencies, and local organizations. The project update introduced Reclamation and the RMP/EIS planning process, provided a project milestones timeline, and suggested methods for public involvement. Finally, Reclamation advertised the meetings in several area newspapers, including the *Stockton Record*, the *Manteca Bulletin*, the *Sonora Union Democrat*, and the *Calaveras Enterprise*.

During the last week of January 2007, public meetings were held in three locations within the project planning area. A fourth meeting for agency officials was held at the beginning of the week. Seventy-seven people attended these meetings, which are described in greater detail in Section 1.3.5.

Public Scoping Results

Four hundred and two written comments were submitted by 148 commentors as of March 19, 2007, and have been incorporated into this Scoping Summary Report. Of these, 29 were submitted by government agencies, 109 were submitted by nongovernmental organizations, and 264 were submitted by members of the public. Each submittal was read and evaluated to determine discrete comments and was logged and categorized by the issues and concerns raised. All comments will be considered in alternative formulation and project planning.

Issue Summary

Most comments focused on access (20 percent), biological resources (12 percent), facilities (12 percent), and recreation (20 percent). Although not tallied with the written scoping comments, verbal comments received during the scoping meetings and through consultations and discussions with individuals, organizations, and agencies were compared and considered in the scoping evaluation. Section 3 contains a numeric breakdown of the comments received, a summary of the issues identified in those comments, and a list of the comments received.

Future Steps

Reclamation will use the scoping report to evaluate the issues raised by the public and agencies and to organize them into issue statements that can be applied to the next phase of planning (see Appendix A: Planning Issues). The next phase of Reclamation's planning process is to develop management alternatives, which will be analyzed in a draft RMP/EIS. Although Reclamation welcomes public input at any time during the planning process, the next official public comment period will begin when the draft alternatives are published, which is anticipated for the fall of 2007. A further opportunity to comment on the proposed project will occur when the draft RMP/EIS is released for public review and comment. Release dates and comment periods for both of these events will be published in project updates and displayed on the project Web site. Availability of the draft RMP/EIS and draft alternatives will be published in the *Federal Register*, along with meeting schedules.

This page intentionally left blank.

Contents

	Page
Summary.....	S-1
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act and Public Involvement Process	1
1.2 Purpose of and Need for the RMP/EIS	2
1.3 Description of the Scoping Process	3
1.3.1 Notice of Intent	3
1.3.2 Project Web Site	5
1.3.3 Project Update.....	5
1.3.4 News Release and Newspaper Advertisement.....	5
1.3.5 Scoping Meetings	5
1.3.6 Mailing List.....	6
1.4 Agency Coordination	6
2. Meeting Overview	7
3. Comment Summary.....	10
3.1 Method of Comment Collection and Analysis.....	10
3.2 Summary of Public Comments Received	11
3.2.1 Comments by Issue	11
3.3 Comments Received	15
4. Future Steps.....	26
4.1 Summary of Future Steps and Public Participation Opportunities	26
4.2 Contact Information	27

Figures

	Page
1-1 Project Planning Area	4
4-1 Public Participation Milestones	28

Tables

	Page
1-1 Meeting Schedule and Attendance	6
2-1 Verbal Comment/Question Overview.....	8
3-1 Summary of Comments	12

Appendices

- A Planning Issue Statements
- B Public Involvement

Acronyms

Acronym	Full Phrase
CCAO	Central California Area Office
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EA	environmental assessment
EIS	environmental impact statement
HQ	headquarters
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	notice of intent
RMP	resource management plan

This page intentionally left blank.

1. Introduction

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, is preparing a resource management plan/environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS) for Reclamation-managed lands located at New Melones Lake in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The New Melones Lake Area is managed by Reclamation's Central California Area Office (CCAO), part of the Mid-Pacific Region.

1.1 Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act and Public Involvement Process

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-190) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, Federal agencies are required to consider the environmental impacts of their proposed actions prior to taking action. Actions that are subject to NEPA include those involving Federal funding or requiring Federal permits, those involving Federal facilities and equipment, or those affecting Federal employees. The actions that Reclamation would propose as part of the RMP/EIS being developed for the CCAO are subject to the requirements of NEPA. Pursuant to NEPA, Reclamation will fulfill the requirements of an EIS with an integrated RMP/EIS document for the New Melones Lake Area.

Public involvement is a component of NEPA, which requires that Federal agencies involve the public in the decision making process, while considering environmental factors. Guidance for implementing public involvement is codified in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1501, Part 7 (40 CFR 1501.7), thereby ensuring that Federal agencies make a diligent effort to involve the public in preparing NEPA documents.

Public involvement for the New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS is being conducted in five phases:

- Public scoping prior to NEPA analysis to determine the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the RMP/EIS;
- Public outreach via public meetings, project updates, a project Web site, news releases, and newspaper advertisements;
- Collaboration with Federal, State, local, and tribal governments;
- Public review and comment on the draft alternatives developed to frame the analysis of the RMP/EIS evaluation; and

Objectives of Scoping

- ◆ Invite agencies and public to participate
- ◆ Identify a preliminary list of environmental and socioeconomic issues to address in the NEPA document
- ◆ Identify and eliminate concerns or issues determined to be insignificant

- Public review and comment on the draft RMP/EIS, which analyzes likely environmental effects and identifies Reclamation's preferred alternative.

This report documents the results to date of the first three phases (the results of phase one and the progress of phases two and three to date) of the public involvement process.

Scoping is a process designed to determine the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in a NEPA document. The process has two components: internal scoping and external scoping. Internal scoping is conducted within an agency or with cooperating agencies to determine preliminary and anticipated issues and concerns. Internal scoping meetings were held with an interdisciplinary team of Reclamation resource specialists and the staff of New Melones Field Office to identify the anticipated planning issues and the methods, procedures, and data to be used in compiling the RMP/EIS. These were compiled into a list of potential issues and constituted the first attempt to identify the issues that Reclamation may address in this RMP/EIS.

External scoping is “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action” (Reclamation 2003). The public process is designed to determine and frame the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in a NEPA document. External scoping helps ensure that issues are identified early and that they are studied, that the project is focused on the most important issues, and that the proposed action and alternatives are balanced, thorough, and can be implemented.

The purpose of this report is to review and summarize written comments received from the public during the official scoping period (December 18 through March 19, 2007) and, based on this review combined with Reclamation objectives, to develop broad statements that encompass the range of issues identified during scoping. These issue statements will be used during the planning process to develop the proposed project and possible alternatives. Planning issues may be concerns or controversies about existing and potential land and resource allocations, levels of resource use, and related management practices. Issues include concerns, needs, and resource use, development, and protection opportunities for consideration in preparing the RMP/EIS.

1.2 Purpose of and Need for the RMP/EIS

Changes in resource management and recreation interest, changes in the types of uses, and changes in the level of use have occurred over the last several decades. The Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (Public Law [P.L.] 102-575, Title 28 [2805(c)(1)(A)]) directs Reclamation to, “provide for the development, use, conservation, protection, enhancement, and management of resources on Reclamation lands.” These changes and requirements under the act have created a need for Reclamation to evaluate the contemporary resource and recreation management for the New Melones Lake Area.

An RMP/EIS will be developed that reflects contemporary resource and recreation management needs for the New Melones Lake Area, while ensuring that its authorized purposes continue to be met. These authorized purposes include flood control, water supply, power, recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife enhancement as part of the Eastside Division of the Central Valley Project.

The RMP/EIS will meet the following purposes:

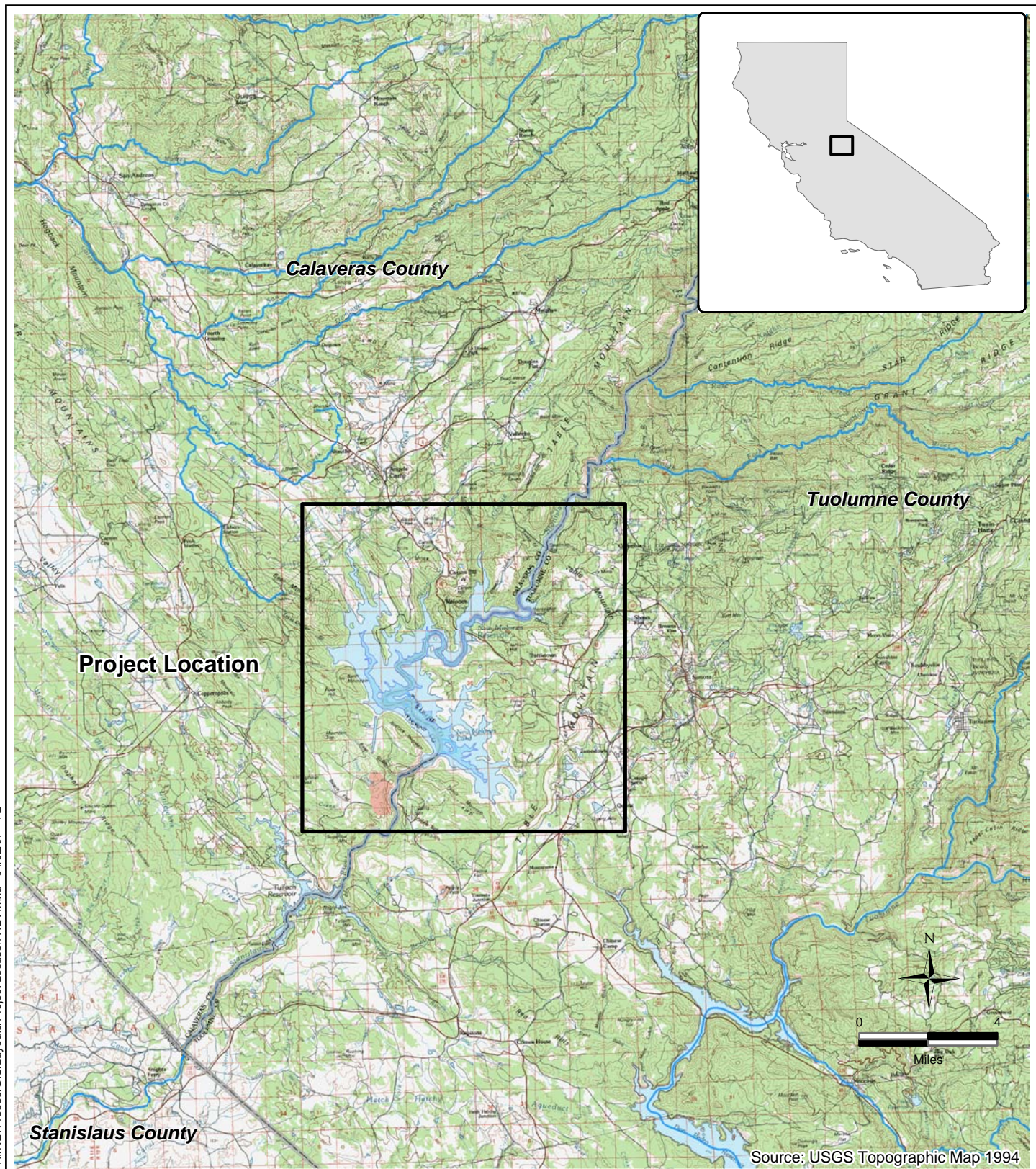
- Provide a framework to ensure Reclamation plans and activities comply with all appropriate Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and policies;
- Provide for the protection and management of natural and cultural resources and of public health and safety;
- Provide for recreation management and development and other uses consistent with contemporary and professional resource management and protection theories, concepts, and practices; and
- Be consistent with Reclamation fiscal goals and objectives.

1.3 Description of the Scoping Process

Reclamation follows the public involvement requirements according to the CEQ regulations set forth in 40 CFR 1501.7, which states, “there should be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed during the planning process.” Reclamation requests comments from agencies and the public, organizes and analyzes all of the comments received, and then reviews the comments to identify issues that will be addressed during the planning process. These issues, and issues identified by Reclamation staff, are the scope of analysis for the RMP/EIS and are used to develop the project alternatives.

1.3.1 Notice of Intent

The formal public scoping process for the New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS began on December 18, 2006, with the publication of the notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The NOI initiated the public scoping process and notified the public of Reclamation’s intent to develop an RMP/EIS for the New Melones Lake Area. Under CEQ regulations, the public comment period must last for at least 30 days, but Reclamation extended this public comment period until March 19, 2007, providing 92 days. Although the formal comment period has ended, Reclamation will continue to consider all comments received during the planning process. The NOI was provided for public consideration at the four scoping meetings and was posted on the project Web site.



Project Location

New Melones Lake, California
Central California Area Office

Figure 1-1

1.3.2 Project Web Site

In November 2006, a New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS public Web site was launched to serve as a clearinghouse for project information during the planning process. The Web site is at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/field_offices/new_melones/index.html. It provides background information about the project, a public involvement timeline and calendar, maps and photos of the planning area, and copies of public information documents, such as the NOI and project update. The site also provides contact information for submitting comments and for obtaining further information about the project.

1.3.3 Project Update

The first project update for the New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS project was mailed on January 22, 2007, to 791 individuals from the public, agencies, and local organizations. The project update introduced Reclamation and the RMP/EIS planning process, provided a project milestones timeline, and suggested methods for public involvement. The project update also provided the dates and venues for the scoping meetings and gave the public various alternative methods to submit their comments.

In addition to being mailed, the project update was provided at the scoping meetings and was posted on the project Web site. Future project updates will be published at major project milestones and will be mailed to individuals and organizations that have requested to remain on or be added to the project distribution list. These project updates also will be posted on the project Web site.

1.3.4 News Release and Newspaper Advertisement

Advertisements were published in the *Stockton Record*, the *Manteca Bulletin*, the *Sonora Union Democrat*, and the *Calaveras Enterprise*. The advertisements notified the public of the project, announced the public meetings, requested public comments, and provided contact information. A news release also was issued to various media on January 25, 2007, and again on February 14, 2007, to inform the public of the extended comment period.

1.3.5 Scoping Meetings

During the last week of January 2007, public meetings were held in three locations within the project planning area (Table 1-1). A fourth meeting for agency officials was held at the beginning of the week. As described above, the meetings were advertised in local media. Additionally, the newsletter advertising the meetings was mailed to agency staff and members of the public who have participated in past Reclamation activities and have been included in past Reclamation distribution lists.

Scoping meetings were conducted in an open house format. Project team members from Reclamation and its consultants staffed informational workstations and interacted with meeting participants to provide information and to answer questions. An open house format was chosen over the more formal public meeting format to encourage broader participation, to allow attendees to learn about the project at their own pace, and to

**Table 1-1
Meeting Schedule and Attendance**

Venue	Location	Date	Time	Attendance*
New Melones Lake Visitor Center (Agency Meeting)	Sonora	January 29, 2007	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	24
Sonora High School Cafeteria	Sonora	January 29, 2007	6:30 – 8:30 PM	21
Brett Harte High School Library	Angels Camp	January 30, 2007	6:30 – 8:30 PM	33
Manteca High School Cafeteria	Manteca	January 31, 2007	6:30 – 8:30 PM	15
Total				93

*Attendance count based on number of individuals who signed into the meetings.

enable people to ask questions of Reclamation representatives in an informal, one-on-one setting. Fact sheets, brochures, and handouts about the project area and a map of the planning area were provided. Site and resource maps were displayed illustrating the current conditions and uses practiced among different resources and land areas. Planning questions were posted to guide the public in formulating questions to be addressed in the RMP/EIS. A slide presentation given by the Reclamation project manager highlighted key issues and summarized the planning process. Prominent, handicap-accessible local facilities in informal settings were chosen as venues to encourage broad participation. These venues included a visitor center, a school library, and two school cafeterias. In addition to Reclamation representatives, 93 people attended the meetings.

1.3.6 Mailing List

Reclamation compiled a list of 831 individuals, agencies, and organizations that have participated in past Reclamation projects, that are known stakeholders for this project, or who requested to be on the mailing list. These stakeholders were mailed the initial postcard to verify their address and their interest in being involved. Based on the response received, the project mailing list was refined to 791 listings, each of whom received the initial project update (discussed in Section 1.3.3, Project Update). Several new entries have been added based on the response and specific requests received during the scoping process. The mailing list now includes approximately 791 entries. Requests to be added to or remain on the official New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS mailing list will continue to be accepted throughout the planning process.

1.4 Agency Coordination

The benefits of enhanced collaboration among agencies in preparing NEPA analyses include disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process, applying available technical expertise and staff support, avoiding duplication with other Federal, State, tribal, and local procedures, and establishing a mechanism for addressing

intergovernmental issues. One of the key concerns raised during the New Melones public scoping period was how input given during other ongoing and past public participation efforts would be used and incorporated into the New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS project. Coordination with these other agencies facilitates this sharing of ideas and public input.

To initiate the collaborative planning process, on January 10, 2007, Reclamation mailed 139 letters inviting Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations to the agency scoping meeting scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2007, or to any of the three public scoping meetings held during that week. Each of these organizations was also included on the original distribution list to receive the project update. The agencies were also invited to meet individually with Reclamation to discuss specific issues. The Calaveras Council of Governments, Altaville Fire Department and Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce all requested and attended additional meetings with Reclamation.

2. Meeting Overview

Reclamation hosted one agency scoping meeting and three public scoping meetings during the last week of January 2007. These meetings followed an open house format, with a brief presentation to introduce the project (see Section 1.3.5). Meeting rooms were organized to promote a progressive flow from one resource to another. A welcome table was positioned by the door to allow visitors to sign in, to provide general information, and to introduce the meeting. Tables and display information were staged to present information on natural resources, land management, recreation and access, and the planning process. Resource specialists from Reclamation and its consulting team were positioned around the room.

Approximately 30 minutes into each meeting all visitors were guided to a central area to watch a short presentation. The New Melones Lake Resource Manager, Peggi Brooks, welcomed everyone and introduced the project team. Reclamation's project manager, Elizabeth Vasquez, then presented a slideshow summary of the planning process, key issues, goals of the process, and ways in which the public can become involved. A short question and answer period following the presentation allowed for a limited number of planning-related questions and answers.

Issues raised during these meetings are listed on Table 2-1 and are being considered in the planning process (because these comments were received verbally they are not presented verbatim). Commentors were encouraged to provide written comments in addition to their verbal discussions to ensure their intent was received accurately.

Following the presentation and question and answer period, visitors were encouraged to talk with the resource specialists about specific issues.

Table 2-1
Verbal Comment/Question Overview

Agency Meeting
Monday, January 29, 2007 - New Melones Lake Visitor Center
Will there be an economic impact analysis included? <i>Only at the level required of a NEPA document. There is not a separate economic impact report planned.</i>
Based on statement that ~85% of users using 5% of the land in the Reclamation management area, is there a concern and priority to broaden this or make it less concentrated? <i>Yes, that is one of Reclamation's concerns and will be addressed in the RMP/EIS.</i>
Will there be any public testimony at this phase? Any open mic? <i>No, the scoping meetings are designed to solicit written comments, and are not set up for public testimony.</i>
Request for a separate presentation to the Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce since there is a CoC dinner conflicting with the Tuesday night scoping meeting. <i>Reclamation will meet separately with any agency that requests a meeting.</i>
Where did the population projections given in the presentation come from? <i>Department of Water Resources.</i>
How will management uses from the Master Plan be carried forward? Will management areas be revised? <i>Management actions that are still relevant will be carried forward. Reclamation will examine all management areas and adjust those that need it.</i>
Suggestion for Reclamation to meet with Caltrans to discuss transportation and corridor issues.
Public Scoping Meeting
Monday, January 29, 2007 - Sonora High School Cafeteria
When can they expect to see the Scoping Summary Report? <i>Report is due out in mid-March, 2007 (this was before the comment period was extended).</i>
Question regarding transportation study that was completed for the Peoria Environmental Assessment. Concern with the balance of information between the two parallel NEPA processes. <i>Peoria Environmental Assessment was prepared in advance of the RMP/EIS so that planning for that area could be included in the RMP/EIS process.</i>
Concern with the 1995 RMP/EIS not being available. <i>A copy of the Draft 1995 RMP can be accessed by appointment at the New Melones Headquarters.</i>
Public Scoping Meeting
Tuesday, January 30, 2007 - Bret Harte High School Library, Angels Camp
Will Reclamation utilize public volunteers for input, or will the entire assessment be completed professionally? <i>Reclamation has an extensive volunteer program and may use volunteer input where it seems appropriate.</i>
Are the other management areas (i.e. Shasta) included or separate? Can we give input for these other management areas? <i>No, this effort is separate from any others.</i>

Table 2-1
Verbal Comment/Question Overview

How is the input used or incorporated? <i>Reclamation will summarize the scoping comments and use them when determining which issues to address in the RMP/EIS.</i>
Since fiscal goals are a constraining factor will these goals be published? <i>Not necessarily as part of the RMP/EIS.</i>
Are there already plans for the direction Reclamation wants the planning to go? What are Reclamation's priorities going into this? <i>Reclamation would like to prepare a management plan that balances user needs and resource protection, but at this point there is no preferred path.</i>
Has this process been completed for other Reclamation-managed areas? In those plans, have there been closings of recreation areas? <i>Yes, other areas have completed RMPs, but don't know if recreation areas have been closed.</i>
Request for clarification on the timeline of the management plan. <i>Pointed to timeline slide.</i>
How will the public be kept aware of the issues? <i>Through public meetings, project Web site, and by being on the mailing list.</i>
Request for clarification of the Recreation Survey to be conducted. <i>Ms. Vasquez described the outline of the recreation survey.</i>
What does Reclamation feel is important when discussions are conducted internally? <i>How to accommodate increased visitor use and still provide a good experience, capacity, preservation of sensitive resources, access.</i>
Are there discussions regarding new facilities to be added? <i>Although there are no new facilities planned at this time, such a need will be evaluated in the RMP/EIS process.</i>
There is an issue with emergency management (specifically the Darby fire and needing water resources. Suggestion to incorporate the State emergency response plan to establish continuity. <i>Ms. Vasquez acknowledged the suggestion.</i>
Where do fees collected go? <i>Presently most fees go to the Federal Treasury.</i>
Public Scoping Meeting Wednesday, January 31, 2007 - Manteca High School Cafeteria
Are you added to the mailing list if you attend these meetings? <i>Yes.</i>
How do we know about specific projects, or are some of these projects ongoing? What are the current actions being employed now to reduce impacts (before the RMP/EIS is completed in 2009)? <i>To learn details about the specific project, please contact New Melones staff.</i>
What resources will be evaluated? <i>Biological, cultural, socioeconomic, recreation, any resources that are identified during scoping and internal review.</i>
How does this plan affect DWR projects? <i>This plan is only for resource management, not for operations, so it doesn't really affect DWR projects.</i>
Would Reclamation consider contributions from other sources to supplement the limited Federal funding? So wording in the RMP/EIS would be something like, "We'd like to build trails in this area and as resources become available we'll implement this plan." <i>Plan is fully funded at this point, during implementation other sources of funding may be sought.</i>

Table 2-1
Verbal Comment/Question Overview

<p>How will fisheries be managed? Currently certain areas are being managed in a certain way; will this be changed? <i>Reclamation does not manage fisheries specifically, this is largely left to CDFG.</i></p> <p>We're hoping that a road will be constructed from Copperopolis to ease crowding on Lake Tulloch. Is this something that Reclamation will be considering in the plan? <i>This has been suggested and is something that will be looked at.</i></p>
<p>Once input comes in, who makes the decision on what is adopted and what goes forward? <i>Reclamation makes the final decision on incorporating input. Input is reviewed by a group of resource staff that is working on the project, and final decisions on the RMP/EIS will be made by Reclamation management.</i></p>
<p>Will all funding come from Federal sources? <i>Planning funds are all Reclamation-based, but project specific projects may consider cost sharing.</i></p>
<p>Has Reclamation coordinated with other agencies that do similar things, such as resource management and planning? <i>Described meeting with agencies, stated that agency coordination will continue during preparation of RMP/EIS.</i></p>

3. Comment Summary

3.1 Method of Comment Collection and Analysis

The end of the New Melones Lake RMP/EIS scoping period was March 19, 2007. Four hundred and two comments from 148 submissions were received as of this date and have been incorporated into this scoping summary report. All comments will be considered in alternative formulation and project planning. Of these, 29 were submitted by government agencies, 109 were submitted by nongovernmental organizations, and 264 were submitted by members of the public.

Individuals were encouraged to submit comments in writing. Reclamation will continue to accept comments throughout the planning process. The comments received and evaluated in this scoping summary report will be considered in alternative formulation and initial impact evaluations. A total of 148 submissions were received:

- 58 by mail;
- 54 by fax;
- 6 by hand deliveries to the scoping meetings; and
- 30 by e-mail.

Some individual comment letters included numerous comments. Furthermore, some discrete comments were relevant to numerous resource issues and thereby were classified by more than one issue.

To ensure that public comments were properly registered and that none were overlooked, comments were first logged into a comment database and assigned a submission number. Issues and concerns within each comment submission were categorized into one of the planning categories. The database was structured to organize comments by issue category. These identifiers could then easily be queried and tallied to provide quantitative information on issue themes.

3.2 Summary of Public Comments Received

3.2.1 Comments by Issue

Four hundred and two written comments were submitted by 148 commentors, and most contained multiple comments, which were assigned to the categories listed in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1
Summary of Comments**

Issue Category	Number of Individual Comments	Summary of Comments
Access	81	More comments were received regarding access than any other topic. Many commentors indicated the need for a road to the west side of the lake from Copperopolis, while others thought there should be increased access to Peoria Wildlife Area along Shell Road. Some letters opposing such a road were received. Other commentors expressed a desire for wheelchair-accessible boat ramps, parking lots, and fishing platforms. Several letter writers expressed support for access at Parrott's Ferry, especially for nonmotorized boat users.
Biological resources	48	Commentors recommend surveying for sensitive biological resources before implementing management actions, while others recommend fencing or seasonal closures to protect such resources. Several letters prescribed specific measures to enhance wildlife habitat. Control of invasive weed species was listed by several commentors as an issue of concern.
Caves	4	Comments suggested clarifying Reclamation's cave management policy and surveying for biological, archaeological, and geological resources in caves.
Climate	1	Suggestion is made to prepare to manage the lake under circumstances that could change as a result of global warming.
Concessions	3	Commentors feel that Reclamation should solicit input from boat owners prior to negotiating new concessions contract.
Cultural resources	1	Commenter encouraged Reclamation to consider effects on historic resources prior to finalizing management actions.
Erosion	1	Shorelines need to be monitored for wave-caused erosion.
Facilities	45	Commentors feel that the marina needs to be expanded, that there should be a second marina, and recommend numerous methods to improve the marina facilities.
Fees	10	Most commentors understood that fees were inevitable, and suggested ways to lessen the effect on local, frequent users. Other comments were about equally divided between those supporting fees and those against them.
Fire management	5	Commentors noted that increased use brings increased fire danger, meaning that more management is needed. Suggestions included vegetation management and examining ways to enhance firefighter access.

**Table 3-1
Summary of Comments**

Issue Category	Number of Individual Comments	Summary of Comments
Land use	2	Commentors recommended preservation of certain areas as natural areas and recognizing land use practices on surrounding lands.
Noise	5	Most commentors were non-motorized boaters asking for areas to be set aside as non-motorized areas or as quiet, undeveloped areas.
OHV use	1	Commentor noted that Reclamation needs to enforce the ban on OHVs in Peoria Wildlife Area.
Planning and process	16	Commentors noted several items that need to be analyzed in the EIS. Commentors asked for consideration of various cooperative management strategies and mentioned specific planning needs to be addressed in the RMP/EIS.
Public safety, law enforcement, and emergency management	31	Commentors mentioned lack of Reclamation ranger enforcement power, recommended various measures for increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement staff from various agencies, and noted that law enforcement needs will increase as lack of use increases. Others pointed out various measures that would increase public health and safety.
Recreation	79	Commentors recommended a large number of measures to improve recreational opportunities at NML, including increasing equestrian opportunities, extending non-motorized trails, designating non-motorized boating areas, enhancing opportunities on the west side of the lake, promoting bass tournaments, and providing various camping facilities.
Request to be added to mailing list, no comment	7	Many commentors did not have specific comments but wanted to be added to the mailing list.
Resource protection	5	Commentors expressed their desire to see the current natural setting maintained at NML, that the RMP/EIS should stress overall ecosystem health, and that funding should be sought to ensure adequate protection of ecosystem features.
Seaplanes	9	All those who commented on this issue expressed support for continuing the right to land seaplanes on the lake.
Socioeconomic	4	Commentors were seeking socioeconomic analysis of the implementation of the RMP/EIS, as well as suggesting measures to increase socioeconomic benefits to the surrounding community.
Traffic/transportation	10	Commentors recommended a comprehensive traffic study, coordination with state or regional transportation agencies, and specific transportation measures that should be planned for.

Table 3-1
Summary of Comments

Issue Category	Number of Individual Comments	Summary of Comments
Trespassing	4	Commentors noted that NML users often trespass onto private lands surrounding the lake.
Water resources/water quality	6	Commentors request that Reclamation retain water rights, protect riparian zones and wetlands, and ensure adequate sewage facilities to ensure no water pollution from visitors occurs.
Other	32	Comments that were not relevant to the RMP/EIS process or were illegible.

3.3 Comments Received

This section lists the comments that were submitted to Reclamation during the scoping period. In most cases, the comments were paraphrased to save space or to communicate an overall theme that would encompass more than one comment. In some cases, similar comments appear in more than one section. For each comment, the commenter's intent was determined before it was assigned to a category.

Access

- Retain seaplane access to the lake.
- Enhance access to the western side of the lake by allowing a road to be built to the lakeshore from Copperopolis.
- Create a wheelchair accessible launch ramp and fishing pier.
- Enhance access at Parrott's Ferry by constructing a boat ramp or non-motorized watercraft launch area.
- Preserve the existing setting by refusing to allow a road from Copperopolis.
- Improve access to and parking at areas open to hunting.
- Ensure access to boat slips and launch ramps year-round.
- Bring Shell Road between Rawhide Road and Peoria Flat Road up to the minimum maintenance standards of a year-round road.
- Keep the lake accessible from Camp Nine.
- Construct a boat ramp and marina off of old Hwy 49 north of Stevenot Bridge.

Biological Resources

- Please meet with us (comment authors) to discuss biological resource issues.
- How will the Peoria Wildlife Area Management Plan be incorporated into the RMP/EIS?
- Need to conduct surveys for biological resources prior to completing the RMP/EIS.
- Recommend fencing streams, implementing seasonal closures, and prohibiting OHVs for wildlife and habitat protection.
- Restrict recreational activities in sensitive habitat areas.
- Enhance raptor habitat by creating nesting platforms.

- Enhance wildlife habitat by creating wildlife water sources, such as spring developments, gallinaceous guzzlers, ponds, and water catchments with tanks and emitters.
- Modify habitat to achieve diversity, such as brush clearing and brush piling, prescriptive burning, and developing and maintaining diverse age structure in native oak woodlands.
- Control noxious weeds such as yellow star thistle.
- Weeds such as yellow star start there and move to neighboring ranches.
- Peoria Wildlife Management Area should continue to be managed for both wildlife mitigation and public hunting opportunities.
- Bundle and sink discarded Christmas trees to create fish habitat.
- Prioritize the protection of biological resources on land around New Melones.
- Adopt policies to avoid future disturbance or degradation of wetlands by the development of new facilities, by livestock grazing, or by other management activities.
- RMP should prioritize the protection of wetlands.
- Inventory caves that may be most likely to contain bat populations, then survey to identify special status species.
- Examine methods to control access to caves occupied by bats, and spell out methods for staff to choose from for gating critical habitat caves to prevent human access while allowing for ingress/egress by bats.
- Describe plan to conduct thorough biological resource inventory of special status plants on USBR lands, and tie approval of management actions to survey results. Comment letter contains list of plant and animal species.
- Limit development on rare soil types to protect special status plants. When activities cannot be avoided, conduct surveys to reduce harm to special status plants.
- Erect signs to identify sensitive habitats and educate the public.
- Implement site-specific policies to minimize impacts on known important sensitive status bird nesting or roost sites during breeding season.
- Agree with previous RMP draft's suggestion that yearly surveys (e.g., at Table Mountain and other bird nesting or roost sites) for a number of years should be completed in order to determine presence of sensitive species and whether a seasonal closure is justified.
- Increase lake use as a refuge and habitat for wildlife.
- BOR should sponsor more habitats for fish.

- RMP should incorporate biological corridors into its designs. Snags, large oaks, and other important habitat values should be protected.
- Sensitive shoreline habitat and wetlands should be protected from disturbance and erosion caused by boat wakes or other recreational uses.
- Lay out a policy direction to reduce non-native fish species, help protect existing native fish species in reservoir, minimize impacts to aquatic amphibians, and realistically consider the restoration of extirpated fish and wildlife species.
- Poor habitat value on New Melones lands is making wildlife congregate at nearby ranches.
- Wild boar have been seen recently on New Melones lands and neighboring ranches.

Caves

- RMP should include recommendations for caves located below the 1,088 elevation. If USBR decides not to address these caves with specific policies to protect them, the EIS should analyze the potential negative impacts of this decision.
- Use criteria laid out under Federal Cave Resources Protection Act to direct agency's policies in RMP.
- Spell out a plan to survey, evaluate, and rank caves according to their biological, archeological, and geological significance.
- New surveys should be conducted in order to determine current cave conditions. Updated surveys can be used to nominate caves as federally-designated significant caves.

Climate

- Analyze issues that would affect management if the current trend of global warming continues. RMP/EIS needs to address list of management direction that would respond to a continuing warming climate.

Concessions

- BOR could solicit input from boat owners prior to the bid process for a marina operator. BOR should maintain a list of current boat owner's names and contact information.
- Consider housing for live-in caretakers and repairmen to live on premises to supervise and maintain premises.

Cumulative

- Planning document should consider the cumulative environmental impacts resulting from the likely future conversion of thousands of acres of the adjacent region's Open Space.
- Consider cumulative impacts on wet meadows, vernal pools, riparian areas, and wetlands from RMP.

Erosion

- Limit water skiing and wake boards to designated areas. My concern is the erosion created by the huge waves.

Facilities

- New Melones needs more boat berths.
- New Melones needs more mooring spaces and rental boats.
- Clean up Glory Hole Marina area.
- Large balls and tires are a hazard at Glory Hole.
- Construct a marina on the north side.
- Increase availability of houseboat moorings.
- Glory Hole Marina needs a breakwater to protect moored boats.
- Install a put-in for non-motorized boats.
- Create "dry stack" facilities for boats vs. in-water slips.
- Marina should be in Tuolumne County in the Tuttletown or Shell Road area.
- All marina plans should provide moorage for a greater number of trailerable pontoon/deck boats (up to 8 feet wide) than currently available.
- More boat space for boats up to 40 feet (moorings). More dock space needed. Need slips for keel sailboats.
- Concern about damage to the marina and boats from severe winter weather.
- Refrain from allowing watercraft development with private docks.
- Expand services, mooring balls, dock space, year-round slips at existing marina.
- Recommend second marina with restaurant, mini market, supplies, covered berths, or expansion of marina with more berths and covered moorings.
- Move marina buildings as close to weather protected launch ramp as possible. Behind buildings, attach docks, covered slips first, followed by larger and higher houseboat slips.
- Design and engineer the anchoring, cable, and roofing systems to withstand the winter weather, eliminating the need to move and reroof docks every year.

- Need gently sloped access at marina buildings and launch ramp.
- Maintain breakwater as it has been in past years to reduce damages caused by high winds and waves.
- Dialog between the Bureau and house boat owners is needed to reach an improved, mutually beneficial policy to remove and maintain boats in a cost effective manner.
- Launch area and fish cleaning facilities are top-notch. Boat ramps and car/trailer parking is good.
- Add fish cleaning station at/near main launch ramp. Add fish cleaning station at Glory Hole.
- Need a marina with restaurant and lodging on the south end of Lake. More slips and ball hookups at that end are needed.
- Promote concentrated use of existing facilities.
- Need room for a boat up to 16' x 65'.

Fees

- Locals should be provided free or reduced fees.
- Fees, policies, and guidelines must be reasonable as defined by local economic impact, not by BORs goals and objectives. Fees must be predictable and competitive with other BOR facilities.
- Implement minimal entry fee or year pass to generate income for maintenance.
- Lack of an entrance fee is good.
- Charges for use expected.
- User fees should not be “excessive”.
- Urge consideration of “local user” fees and annual passes.
- Institute a user fee for using the lake.

Land Use

- Identify other plans that may affect planning at New Melones.
- Recommend preserving undeveloped areas and restoring some areas.

Noise

- Unlimited boating in Camp 9 arm from Rose Creek upstream to the powerhouse and the Angels Creek arm is creating noise pollution from watercraft and music speakers.
- Provide undeveloped areas for quiet solitude.

- Set aside portions of the reservoir as quiet zones, perhaps Angels Creek Arm or the area from Parrots Ferry up to Camp Nine.
- Non-motorized watercraft deserve a small portion of the reservoir to enjoy peace and quiet and wildlife, away from blaring stereos of wakeboarders.
- Accommodations should be made for individuals wishing to sea kayak or canoe in a quiet, relaxing environment.

Planning

- Please consider cooperative agreements with neighbors.
- Consider a reasonable range of alternatives.
- Need to consider effects of management on neighboring landowners.
- Clearly articulate fiscal requirements guiding the RMP/EIS decision.
- No more houses on the lake.
- Base plan on realistic budgets for enforcement of regulations, policies, and management direction.
- EIS should analyze OHV impacts involving enforcement of OHV laws, soil erosion, steep slopes, sedimentation in water, and wildfires.
- Identify which specific areas justify individual management plans.
- Bureau should provide for recreational needs, socio-economic needs, and should provide high level of ecosystem protection.
- Intensive use needs to be balanced with intensive regulations, restrictions, and enforcement.
- Stay with your study that established the carrying capacity for the lake.
- I applaud the Bureau for attempting to quantify a “valued recreation experience” by looking at boating density.
- RMP should consider Tuolumne County’s First Preference Power allocation stemming from New Melones Dam.
- Need to have local input and representation on operations, maintenance, and improvements.

Rangeland/Grazing

- Wants to meet to discuss issues
- Please consider implementing cattle grazing for resource management.
- Moderate cattle grazing should be allowed.

Recreation

- Reserve portion of New Melones Lake for non-motorized use. Would like to see paddle-in and hike-in campsites established in the recreation area.
- I would like to see more horseback riding areas available.
- Recommend areas of lake for only nonmotorized recreation.
- Provide camping areas for tents, not RVs.
- Provide lake areas off limits to motor boats.
- Provide trails greater than 10 miles long and not near roads.
- Remove or close off some roads.
- Expand ranger-led hikes for more hiking opportunities.
- New Melones should be for all types of sportsmen.
- Promote picnicking and camping.
- Continue use of lake for all water recreational purposes.
- Improved access to bank/pier fishing for handicapped as water levels fluctuate.
- Improved and/or additional “from the beach” swimming areas that will remain usable through periods of low water, with good access for handicapped.
- Recommend non-motorized boat section on lake. Ideal spot would be at Angels Arm. Recommend simple boat access at Buck Brush Day Use Area. Also non-motorized use at Camp 9 arm from Rose Creek upstream to the powerhouse and the Angels Creek arm.
- Assign sections of the lake for disruptive activities like skiing and boarding.
- Camp grounds in areas that allow boats to be beached at or about the camp sites.
- Bicyclists and hikers should share more of their trails with horse riders.
- Hunters setting blinds and shooting in Camp 9 arm from Rose Creek upstream to the powerhouse and the Angels Creek arm is a disruption to viewing wildlife. Prohibit hunting in areas where birding and wildlife viewing is best. Establish natural areas for wildlife viewing to make it a safe activity.
- If non-motorized areas can’t be established, consider establishing electric motor only areas, no wake areas, no noise areas to eliminate loud music.
- Prohibit hunting in areas where birding and wildlife viewing is best.
- Make non-motorized zones non-hunting zones as well.
- Close some lands along lake to hunting.
- Implement boater awareness program regarding respectful use of the resource. Encourage leave no trace.
- Require motorboats to carry spill kits to clean up spills and broken fuel lines.

- Restore upper reach of Camp 9 for whitewater activities. Remove weir above Camp Nine Bridge.
- Provide river put-in near powerhouse and take-out near the old bridge and the new bridge.
- Establish “wilderness” campsites in non-motorized areas, but only if leave no trace is enforced.
- Set aside portions of the reservoir as quiet zones, perhaps Angels Creek Arm or the area from Parrots Ferry up to Camp Nine.
- In addition to permitting public hunting on the Peoria Wildlife Area, the Bureau of Reclamation should continue to permit public hunting on all areas not presently closed for homeland security reasons, campgrounds, boat launch facilities or for administration purposes.
- Expand recreational offerings on western shore of reservoir.
- PWMA has been identified as a major collector to connect Rawhide Road and O’Byrne’s Ferry Road. This corridor should be examined for enhancing recreational opportunities.
- Tuolumne County would like BOR to consider increasing recreational opportunities to include additional trails and a walk-in campground. County would like recreational enhancements in the County.
- Provide multi-use equestrian development, campground for equestrian camping, trailhead staging area, riding trails, horse rental operation.
- Make old Parrots Ferry Bridge a non-motorized boat launch.
- Expand trail system at Melones, particularly in the Shell Road and French Flat area. Coordinate management effort with BLM to identify trailheads and legitimize/manage the existing trail use in the area.
- Non-motorized trails are in much demand during the winter and spring months.
- Provide more miles of trail and possibly a unified trail system which would connect the Glory Hole Recreation Area with Tuttletown Recreation Area and possibly beyond.
- See attached petition signed by numerous people requesting that the Parrotts Ferry ramp be re-opened as a paddlers’ put-in.
- No overnight shore camping is good. Fishing is good.
- Close all lands surrounding New Melones Lake to OHV use.
- Limit the number of bass tournament events, and advertise the scheduled events.
- Address bicycle and pedestrian on-site facilities/paths and links to those types of facilities outside the study area.
- We need bike trails and more things fun for children.

- Consider ways to increase visitor use of the lake.
- Exorbitant, unpredictable fees have driven many fishing tournaments away.
- Incorporate recreation management and resourcing expertise into NM management.
- Many commitments made in the Master Plan have not been met.

Resource Protection

- Keep area pristine and available for public use.
- Ensure overall ecosystem health.
- Provide discussion where improved, expanded resource protection can be presented to the visiting public, how it can be provided, and when such education efforts can be most effective.
- Prohibit suction dredging and work with CDF&G to eliminate permits for the activity within the New Melones land.
- Oppose destruction of natural resources as a result of commercialism and businesses moving to area.

Safety/Law Enforcement

- Install “no ski” and “5 mph” buoys at stated locations. Replace dilapidated 5 mph buoys with new ones. Replace 5 mph buoys with “No Wake” buoys. Add 5 mph buoys near campgrounds. Add 5 mph buoys to some areas for swimming/houseboat use.
- Stop hunting south of Mormon Creek and from boats.
- Anchor buoys further from docks as water level drops.
- Create signs and brochures explaining safe boater expectations.
- Need more boat patrols. Deputize park patrol officers. Give rangers more enforcement powers.
- Hold users accountable for their trash through more enforcement on the water.
- Better surface water marking of natural hazards, especially as the water level drops.
- Hunters setting blinds and shooting in Camp 9 arm from Rose Creek upstream to the powerhouse and the Angels Creek arm is a public safety concern for those kayaking.
- Consider restrictions on firearms, such as near the lake.
- Support recent law enforcement presence increase and crime reduction efforts. Entrance gate should be locked at night.

- Provide means for houseboat owners to access houseboat during locked gate hours.
- Tuolumne County Fire Department access to PWMA is crucial during fire events.
- Consider the establishment of a regional sheriff substation and the funding of a fulltime equivalent resident sheriff deputy to respond to law enforcement needs at the Lake.
- Without adequate sheriff patrols and water levels, there should be no more moorings allowed. Inadequate law enforcement remains our biggest concern.
- Base management plan on realistic scenario that county and other law enforcement personnel may be limited during peak use periods.
- Provide more supervision of the parking area to reduce theft and vandalism.
- Cultivation of marijuana is increasing on NM lands, increasing danger to public.
- There are huge impacts on fire and EMS services due to increased tourism every year.
- Sending police to respond at New Melones places strain on local law enforcement.
- Coordination of Emergency Management Response Planning with State and Local offices in order to ensure a comprehensive response to natural disasters or terrorism.

Seaplanes

- Encourage BOR to allow seaplane use of lake.

Socioeconomic

- Comprehensive economic impact analysis should be done for Angel's Camp and its sphere of influence.
- Oppose boat and aircraft restrictions to maintain tourism.
- Support connection of Lake Melones and Lake Tulloch to promote economic benefits.

Traffic/Roads

- Support connection of Lake Melones and Lake Tulloch.
- Tuolumne County reserves the right to comment in great detail once the RMP/EIS is drafted.
- Relieve congestion on Highway 49.
- PWMA has been identified as a major collector to connect Rawhide Road and O'Byrne's Ferry Road. RMP/EIS must consider this.

- How will increasing traffic affect local/regional roads?
- Recommend comprehensive traffic study.
- RMP/EIS should include a review and discussion to demonstrate consistency with the Calaveras County Regional Transportation Plan.
- Needs to be at least one alternate way through Angels' Camp.

Trespassing

- There needs to be more enforcement of existing laws in PWMA. Emphasis should include interagency law enforcement cooperation, more law enforcement personnel, more man hours of enforcement effort, and enforcement at times when violators are most likely to be creating problems.
- People cross from New Melones and hunt on private lands. Marijuana farms have been found recently on BOR lands, causing increased danger to residents.
- Cutting fences, mountain biking, poaching, theft and vandalism.

Utilities

- Recommend more floating toilets be placed around the lake.

Water/Water Quality

- Consider existing and future water rights.
- Establish buffer zone to keep harmful development or other projects at least 150 feet from high water mark of perennial streams, seeps, springs, ponds, rivers, and other wetlands.
- Intermittent streams are also worthy of resource protection by means of 100-foot buffers.
- Where livestock use wetland habitats, require permittees to fence at-risk riparian areas, ponds, and other sensitive areas.
- Monitor at-risk riparian areas, ponds, and other sensitive areas during allotment visits to evaluate effectiveness of protective measures.
- Look at issues tied to sewage and water quality and options to reduce risk, improve water quality, and reduce widespread pollution caused by recreational boaters, campers, fishermen, and visitors.

Wildfire/Fire Management

- Wildlife habitat improvement: modify habitat to achieve diversity, such as brush clearing and piling and prescriptive burning. These practices could be incorporated into fuels management planning.

- Vegetation and fuels must be managed to reduce or eliminate catastrophic wildfire. Access to areas to fight fire managed by BOR must also be examined.
- Wildfire could start at New Melones from campers or boaters and move to subdivisions.
- Need a comprehensive vegetation management plan to control vegetation above high-water mark to reduce fire hazard.

4. Future Steps

4.1 Summary of Future Steps and Public Participation Opportunities

The goal of the scoping report is to formulate a comprehensive evaluation of the issues raised by the public and agencies that can be applied to the next phase of planning. The next phase of Reclamation's planning process is to develop management alternatives to address planning issues identified during scoping and to meet goals and objectives developed by the interdisciplinary team. In compliance with NEPA, CEQ regulations, and the Reclamation planning regulations and guidance, alternatives should be reasonable and implementable. Reclamation will also continue to meet with collaborating agencies, community groups, and individuals. A detailed analysis of the alternatives will be documented. Based on the analyses of the alternatives, Reclamation then will select a preferred alternative and will analyze it in detail. The preferred alternative is often made up of a combination of management option components from the various alternatives to provide the best mix and balance of multiple land and resource uses to resolve the issues. Issue statements are provided in Appendix A.

The analysis of the alternatives will be documented in a draft RMP/EIS. Although Reclamation welcomes public input at any time during the planning process, the next official public comment period will begin when the draft alternatives are published, which is anticipated for the fall of 2007. The draft alternatives will be widely distributed to elected officials, regulatory agencies, and members of the public and will be available on the project Web site at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/field_offices/new_melones/index.html. In addition, a workshop on alternatives will be held to facilitate better understanding of the draft alternatives and to encourage public comment.

At the conclusion of this public comment period, Reclamation will evaluate input received on the draft alternatives and will select the alternatives that will be included in the draft RMP/EIS. These alternatives will include a combination of management components that span the responsible range of land and resource uses at the New Melones Lake Area. From the group of alternatives described in the draft RMP/EIS, a set

of management components will be designated as Reclamation's preferred alternative and will be described in detail in the draft RMP/EIS. The availability of the draft document and the draft alternatives will be announced in the *Federal Register*, and another public comment period will follow to allow agencies and the public a chance to review the draft RMP/EIS and to provide input to Reclamation. Two public meetings will be held, the locations of which will be announced.

At the conclusion of this public comment period, Reclamation will revise the RMP/EIS and will publish a proposed RMP/Final EIS. The availability of the proposed document will be announced in the *Federal Register*, and a public comment period will follow. If necessary, Reclamation will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* requesting comments on significant changes made as a result of comments received.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Reclamation will address all comments, will resolve inconsistencies, and will publish the approved RMP/EIS and record of decision. The availability of these documents will be announced in the *Federal Register*.

Figure 4-1 outlines the major milestones of the New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS planning process and the dates when the public will be asked for input.

All publications, including this report, project updates, draft alternatives, the draft RMP/EIS, and the notice of availability, will be published on the official New Melones Lake Area RMP/EIS Web site at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/field_offices/new_melones/index.html. In addition, pertinent dates regarding solicitation of public comments will be published on the Web site.

4.2 Contact Information

The public is invited and encouraged to participate throughout the planning process for the RMP/EIS. One way to participate is by reviewing the progress of the RMP/EIS online at the official New Melones RMP/EIS Web site, at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/field_offices/new_melones/index.html. The Web site will be updated with information, documents, and announcements throughout the duration of the RMP/EIS preparation.

Another means of participation is by requesting to be added to the official New Melones RMP/EIS mailing list to receive future mailings and information. Anyone wishing to be added to or deleted from the distribution list or requesting further information may e-mail Elizabeth Vasquez at evasquez@mp.usbr.gov or call her at (916) 988-1707. Please provide your name, mailing address, and e-mail address, as well as your preferred method of receiving information.

Figure 4-1



Appendix A

Planning Issues

The following issue statements have been developed to summarize the concerns brought forth by the public during the scoping process and by Reclamation during project planning. The issue statements are designed to state concisely those issues that appear to be of most concern to the public and to Reclamation staff and to encompass the range of scoping comments. The issue statements below reflect planning topics that Reclamation will address when creating the goals, objectives, and management actions. (The issues statements are listed in the order in which they were developed, and their position within the list does not reflect priority.)

- 1. How will Reclamation improve access to the management area while protecting resources and addressing logistical and financial challenges?*
- 2. How will Reclamation protect sensitive resources while accommodating increasing numbers of visitors with an expanding range of interests?*
- 3. How will Reclamation enhance fish and wildlife habitats and other natural resources?*
- 4. What types of recreational activities will Reclamation manage for in the New Melones Lake Area?*
- 5. How can Reclamation provide recreation opportunities and services without diminishing the quality of the resources?*
- 6. How can Reclamation optimize a fee program in order to enhance visitor services and protect the resources?*
- 7. How can Reclamation provide adequate law enforcement to increase visitor safety and reduce illegal activities?*
- 8. What Reclamation management strategies will be used to identify and implement necessary changes in facilities or infrastructure?*
- 9. What Reclamation management strategies will be used to protect public health and safety?*
- 10. How can Reclamation foster positive relationships with neighboring landowners and communities while meeting Reclamation's management commitments?*

Appendix B

Public Involvement

The following items were used to notify the public of the scoping period and scoping meetings and how to provide comments:

- **Original NOI;**
- **NOI with scoping period extension;**
- **Project update;**
- **Postcard;**
- **“How to contact us” poster; and**
- **Comment cards.**

be used to support the span. Other bridge alternatives considered in the Draft EIS/EIR include: Alternative BR1 (50-foot-long bridge with a raised road); Alternative BR2 (50-foot-long bridge with a low road); Alternative BR3 (150-foot-long bridge with raised road); and Alternative BR4 (266- to 300-foot-long bridge with highest road).

Scoping and Public Involvement: Between December 2002 and December 2004, 17 public meetings were held, as well as a variety of site visits and meetings with representatives of various agencies. On December 3, 2002, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the **Federal Register**, beginning the formal scoping process for the project. The NOI identified goals for the project, and public scoping meetings were held on October 22, October 29, and November 2, 2002, with a site visit for the public held on November 9, 2002, to solicit input on the project and its potential impacts. Following these meetings, a Big Lagoon Working Group consisting of interested individuals, agencies, and organizations was formed to help develop project alternatives. The working group convened regularly in meetings that were open to the public. In addition, two alternatives workshops were held for the public on September 30 and October 4, 2003. The results of those workshops, as well as a more detailed summary of the scoping process, are presented in the Alternatives Public Workshops Report (NPS 2004). Finally, Marin County circulated a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report on April 27, 2004, soliciting comments on the specific issues to be included in the scope of CEQA environmental review. All of these activities informed the alternatives formulation process.

Comments: Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR will be sent to affected Federal, Tribal, State and local government agencies, to interested parties, and those requesting copies. Paper and digital copies (compact disc) of the document will also be available at park headquarters and at local libraries. The complete document will be posted on the GGNRA's Web site (<http://www.nps.gov/goga>) and on NPS's Planning, Environment and Public Comment Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga>). All written comments must be postmarked or transmitted no later than 75 days from the date of EPA's notice of filing published in the **Federal Register** (as soon as this occurs, the confirmed close of the comment period will be posted on the Web sites noted above, and listed in all notification announcements sent

from GGNRA). Written comments will be accepted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga> (click on the project title and follow instructions), or by sending a letter addressed as follows: Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123 (Attn: Muir Beach Creek and Wetland Restoration). Two public meetings will be scheduled to hear comments on the Draft EIS/EIR, approximately 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Please visit the project Web site (noted above) to learn more about the project, planning process, and the confirmed dates and time for the public meetings. Questions regarding this project may also be directed at any time to Steve Ortega (415) 561-4841 or via e-mail at steve_ortega@nps.gov.

All comments are maintained in the administrative record and will be available for public review at GGNRA headquarters. Please note our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Decision Process: Following the analysis of all comments received concerning the Draft EIS/EIR, at this time it is anticipated that the Final EIS/EIR would be completed in spring 2007. The availability of the final documents will be announced in the **Federal Register**, and also publicized via local and regional press media, direct mailings, and Web site postings. Not sooner than thirty days after the distribution of the Final EIS/EIR, a Record of Decision may be executed (at this time it is anticipated a recommended decision would be developed in summer 2007). As a delegated EIS the approving official responsible for the final decision is the

Regional Director, Pacific West Region. Subsequently, the official responsible for implementing the approved wetland and restoration plan will be the General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Dated: October 3, 2006.

Patricia L. Neubacher,
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
[FR Doc. 06-9748 Filed 12-15-06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4312-FN-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

New Melones Lake Project Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an RMP/EIS and notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Reclamation Act of 1902, the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, and the Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to prepare an integrated RMP/EIS for the New Melones Lake Project. Reclamation is the lead federal agency for NEPA. The RMP process is designed to evaluate current and future resource conditions for a management area and to analyze whether updated or new management actions are necessary to attain desired long-term goals.

The public is invited to participate in the planning process by submitting comments during the scoping period and the public comment period on the draft RMP/EIS. Other opportunities to participate will be described during the public scoping meetings.

DATES: Reclamation will host a series of three public scoping meetings to solicit input on the development of alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the RMP/EIS. The meeting dates and times are:

- Monday, January 29, 2007, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sonora, CA,
- Tuesday, January 30, 2007, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Angels Camp, CA,
- Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Manteca, CA.

ADDRESSES: Scoping meetings will be held at:

- Sonora at the Sonora Union High School Cafeteria, 251, South Barretta Street, Sonora, CA,

- Angels Camp at the Brett Harte High School Library, 323 South Main, Angels Camp, CA,

- Manteca at the Manteca High School Cafeteria, 450 East Yosemite Avenue, Manteca, CA.

Written comments on the scope of the proposed RMP/EIS should be sent by close of business on February 16, 2007 to: Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez, Natural Resource Specialist, Central California Area Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 7794 Folsom Dam Road, Folsom, CA 95630, or e-mail to evasquez@mp.usbr.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez at 916-989-7192.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1976, during planning for construction of the New Melones Dam, a master plan was created to manage the various resources available at New Melones Lake. This plan and a subsequent 1995 draft resource management plan do not fulfill the need for resource management planning, due to the age of the documents, changes in visitor use over the last 30 years, and the accumulation of more complete information about the various resources managed by Reclamation as part of the New Melones Lake Project.

The RMP process is designed to evaluate current and future resource conditions for a management area and to analyze whether updated or new management actions are necessary to attain desired long-term goals. All proposed management actions will be incorporated into a single document that will guide management of biological, social, and physical resources and, when implemented, will result in the desired conditions for the management area. The associated EIS will assess the potential effects of current management actions as well as those proposed under the action alternatives. The final RMP/EIS will reflect the alternative that is deemed most preferable given the range of resources to be managed and the management tools available to Reclamation.

Reclamation has developed a preliminary list of management issues to be addressed in the RMP/EIS. These items include:

- Public health and safety;
- Recreational use;
- Interest groups;
- Traffic and transportation;
- Cultural and archaeological resources;
- Land use, including historic and proposed rights-of-way; and
- Sensitive species and habitats.

This list is not exhaustive and may increase or change as a result of public response during the scoping period.

Additional Information

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact Ms. Vasquez as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than one week before the meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

During the meetings, Reclamation representatives will present an overview of the project. Those attending the meeting will have the opportunity to submit comments, which Reclamation will consider in the development of alternatives and for analysis of environmental issues that should be addressed in the RMP and EIS. (Additional coordination meetings can be arranged with responsible/cooperating agencies and with special interest groups upon request.)

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and to private organizations and citizens who have expressed an interest or who are known to have an interest in this proposal.

Comments received in response to this notice will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public inspection. Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of

organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Michael Nepstad,

Acting Regional Environmental Officer, Mid-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. E6-21471 Filed 12-15-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs

[OMB Number 1121-0094]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Requested

ACTION: 30-Day notice of information collection under review:

Reinstatement of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired:

The Annual Survey of Jails.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collected is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. The proposed information collected was previously published in the **Federal Register** Volume 71, Number 200, page 61071, on October 17, 2006, allowing a 30 day comment period. The purpose of this notice is to allow for an additional 30 days for public comment until January 17, 2007. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice, especially the estimated public burden or associated response time, should be directed to The Officer of Management and Budget, Officer of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention Department of Justice Desk Officer, Washington DC 20503. Additionally, comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to (202) 395-7285.

Request written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

Activity/operator	Location	Date
CGG Americas, Inc., Geological & Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources SEA L06-44.	Located in the central Gulf of Mexico south of Cocodrie, Louisiana	10/10/2006
Veritas DGC Corporation, Geological & Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources SEA L06-46.	Located in the central Gulf of Mexico south of Grand Isle, Louisiana	10/10/2006
Mariner Energy, Inc., Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-039.	South Marsh Island (South), Block 76, Lease OCS-G 01208, located 60 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	10/17/2006
Maritech Resources, Inc., Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 05-121.	Vermilion, Block 355, Lease OCS-G 12876, located 92 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	10/18/2006
Apache Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-135.	West Delta, Block 40, Lease OCS-G 01072, located 15 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	10/20/2006
W & T Offshore, Inc., Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-137.	Ship Shoal, Block 177, Lease OCS 00590, located 42 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	10/23/2006
Newfield Exploration Company, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-019.	West Cameron (South), Block 601, Lease OCS-G 03386, located 100 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/3/2006
GOM Shelf, LLC, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-140.	Eugene Island, Block 142, Lease OCS-G 10726, located 24 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/6/2006
Devon Energy Production Company, L.P., Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-144.	Eugene Island, Block 330, Lease OCS-G 02115, located 82 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/8/2006
Fugro Multiclient Services, Inc., Geological & Geophysical Exploration for Fugro Geoteam, AS SEA L06-49.	Located in the central Gulf of Mexico south of Mobile, Alabama	11/8/2006
Union Oil Company of California, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-143.	Eugene Island, Block 33, Lease OCS-G 03560, located 6 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/14/2006
Remington Oil and Gas Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-139.	West Cameron, Block 428, Lease OCS-G 22554, located 70 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/16/2006
Apache Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-150.	South Marsh Island, Block 95, Lease OCS-00790, located 99 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/27/2006
Apache Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-118.	East Cameron, Block 353, Lease OCS-G 02264, located 108 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/28/2006
Western Geco, Geological & Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources SEA L06-54.	Located in the central Gulf of Mexico south of Gulfport, Mississippi	11/29/2006
Apache Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-141, 06-145, 06-146.	East Cameron, Block 48, Lease OCS-G 00768, located 18 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	11/30/2006
TGS-Nopec Geophysical Company ASA, Geological & Geophysical Prospecting for Mineral Resources SEA L06-53.	Located in the central Gulf of Mexico south of Pascagoula, Mississippi	12/11/2006
Stone Energy Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-156.	East Cameron, Block 220, Lease OCS-G 03323, located 69 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	12/13/2006
ATP Oil & Gas Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-157.	South Marsh Island, Block 7, Lease OCS-G 13896, located 42 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	12/13/2006
Union Oil Company of California, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-159, 06-160, 06-161, 06-162.	Eugene Island, Block 33, Lease OCS-G 03560, located 9 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	12/14/2006
BP Exploration & Production, Inc., Geological & Geophysical Prospecting for Mineral Resources SEA T06-36.	Located in the western Gulf of Mexico south of Galveston, Texas	12/19/2006
Apache Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-149.	Ship Shoal, Block 204, Lease OCS-G 01520, located 43 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	12/19/2006
Apache Corporation, Structure Removal SEA ES/SR 06-151, 06-152.	West Delta, Block 75, Lease OCS-G 01085, located 17 miles from the nearest Louisiana shoreline.	12/27/2006

Persons interested in reviewing environmental documents for the proposals listed above or obtaining information about SEAs and FONSI's prepared for activities on the Gulf of Mexico OCS are encouraged to contact MMS at the address or telephone listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Dated: January 19, 2007.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

[FR Doc. E7-4310 Filed 3-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

New Melones Lake Project Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of the scoping period for the New Melones RMP/EIS.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation is extending the scoping period for the

RMP/EIS to March 19, 2007. The notice of intent for the RMP/EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on December 18, 2006 (71 FR 75769). The scoping period was originally to end on February 16, 2007.

During the scoping process, several individuals and organizations have indicated that submission of scoping comments by the February 16, 2007 would be a difficult deadline to meet. To encourage additional public input, the public comment period has been extended.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the proposed RMP/EIS should be

received by close of business March 19, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments to Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez, Natural Resource Specialist, Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, 7794 Folsom Dam Road, Folsom, CA 95630, or e-mail to evasquez@mp.usbr.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez at 916-988-1707.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments received in response to this notice will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public inspection. Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: February 12, 2007.

John Fields,

Acting Regional Environmental Officer, Mid-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. E7-4250 Filed 3-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

[OMB Number 1140-0004]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Requested

ACTION: 30-day notice of information collection under review: Interstate firearms shipment report of theft/loss.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval

in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** Volume 72, Number 3, pages 580-581 on January 5, 2007, allowing for a 60-day comment period.

The purpose of this notice is to allow for an additional 30 days for public comment until April 9, 2007. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice, especially the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to The Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Department of Justice Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503. Additionally, comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to (202) 395-5806.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Interstate Firearms Shipment Report of Theft/Loss.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form Number: ATF F 3310.6.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* **Primary:** Business or other for-profit. **Other:** None. **Abstract:** The form is part of a voluntary program in which the common carrier and/or shipper report losses or thefts of firearms from interstate shipments. ATF uses this information to ensure that the firearms are entered into the National Crime Information Center to initiate investigations and to perfect criminal cases.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* There will be an estimated 550 respondents, who will complete the form within approximately 20 minutes.

(6) *An estimate of the total burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* There are an estimated 182 total burden hours associated with this collection.

If additional information is required contact: Lynn Bryant, Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Policy and Planning Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 1600, Patrick Henry Building, 601 D Street, NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: March 5, 2007.

Lynn Bryant,

Department Clearance Officer, PRA, United States Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. E7-4229 Filed 3-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-FY-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

[OMB Number 1140-0065]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Requested

ACTION: 30-day notice of information collection under review: Requisition for forms or publications and requisition for firearms/explosives forms.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register**

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Planning for the Future at New Melones Lake

The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing a Integrated Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the New Melones Lake Resource Area. New Melones Lake is managed by the Central California Area Office, part of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. The RMP/EIS will reflect contemporary resources and visitor management needs for the New Melones Area, while ensuring New Melones Unit of the Central Valley Project continues to meet its authorized purposes of flood control, irrigation, power, recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

What is a Resource Management Plan?

An RMP is a land use plan that describes broad multiple-use guidance for managing public lands administered by Reclamation. The Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (Public Law [P.L.] 102-575, Title 28 [2805(c)(1)(A)]) directs Reclamation to, "provide for the development, use, conservation, protection, enhancement, and management of resources on Reclamation lands." Decisions in land use plans guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. The New Melones RMP/EIS will adhere to Reclamation's Mission Statement to accomplish the following:

- Establish goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives;
- Provide comprehensive management direction that will protect and enhance natural, cultural, and recreational resources;
- Be consistent with Reclamation's fiscal goals and objectives.

The RMP/EIS process is designed to evaluate current resource management actions and to propose updated or new management actions that reflect current and future conditions of a management area. The RMP/EIS shall serve as the basis for future resource management decision-making that, when implemented, may result in the desired future condition for the management area.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a combination of management actions is known as an alternative and the final RMP/EIS will analyze the impact of each alternative on the human environment. Reclamation will evaluate each alternative, and then select a combination of management actions that will become the new management guidance for the New Melones Resource Area.

Public Participation Milestones

Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register December 18, 2006

Public Scoping Period
December 18, 2006 to February 16, 2007

Public Scoping Meetings
January 29, 30 and 31, 2007

Scoping Summary Report available
March 2007

First RMP work group meeting April 2007

Draft Alternatives available for public review
September to October 2007

Revise alternatives and prepare draft EIS
November 2007 to August 2008

Draft EIS with plan alternatives available for
60-day public review and comment

Prepare Final RMP/EIS
Fall to Winter 2008

30-day public review and protest period for
final RMP/EIS Winter to Spring 2009

Record of Decision and approved RMP/EIS
Spring/Summer 2009

Shading indicates steps completed. Subsequent project updates will be distributed throughout this planning process.

Reclamation's Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

The New Melones RMP/EIS is not intended to:

- Provide an individual or group of individuals an “exclusive use” of public lands;
- Change current water operations or existing water contracts, or;
- Be a site specific development plan. The RMP/EIS will be programmatic in nature.

Ways to Get Involved

The official scoping period began on December 18, 2006, with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, and will continue until February 16, 2007. The public is formally invited and encouraged to participate in the planning process for the RMP/EIS. Here are some ways you can participate:

- Attend one or more of the scoping meetings to learn about the project, planning process, and to meet Reclamation representatives;
- Request to be added to the mailing list to receive future mailings and information;
- Submit comments for consideration in the RMP/EIS.

To get scoping meeting details, be added to the mailing list, submit comments on our project, or just to review the progress of the RMP/EIS

Visit the project website at:

http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/field_offices/new_melones/index.html

Contact the RMP/EIS Project Manager, Elizabeth Vasquez via:

- E-mail to evasquez@mp.usbr.gov
- Fax to Elizabeth Vasquez/ New Melones RMP/EIS at 916-989-7208
- Send letters to:
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Elizabeth Vasquez
Central California Area Office
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630-6610

Comments Submitted from the Public

All public comments, including names and mailing addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Reclamation office and may be published as part of the RMP/EIS process. If you wish to withhold your name or street address, as permitted by the Freedom of Information Act, please state this prominently at the beginning of your written correspondence. Reclamation will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety

Mark Your Calendars!

Public Scoping Meetings

Sonora

Monday, January 29, 2007
Sonora High School Cafeteria
251 South Berretta Street

Angels Camp

Tuesday, January 30, 2007
Brett Harte High School Library
323 South Main Street

Manteca

Wednesday, January 31, 2007
Manteca High School Cafeteria
450 E. Yosemite Avenue

All Public Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30pm



Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

The Bureau of Reclamation is updating the mailing list for the upcoming New Melones Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Reclamation-managed lands located at New Melones Lake in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. New Melones Lake is managed by the Central California Area Office, part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. For more information, please visit the project website at: http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/recreation/new_melones.html.

Currently you are on the mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or if you have changes to your contact information, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez, Bureau of Reclamation, Central California Area Office, Attn: New Melones RMP, 7794 Folsom Dam Road, Folsom, CA 95630, or fax it to 916-989-7208, or e-mail it to evasquez@mp.usbr.gov.

If you elect to remain on the mailing list, the next distribution will announce upcoming scoping meetings. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Vasquez at 916-989-7192.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

The Bureau of Reclamation is updating the mailing list for the upcoming New Melones Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Reclamation-managed lands located at New Melones Lake in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. New Melones Lake is managed by the Central California Area Office, part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. For more information, please visit the project website at: http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/recreation/new_melones.html.

Currently you are on the mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or if you have changes to your contact information, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez, Bureau of Reclamation, Central California Area Office, Attn: New Melones RMP, 7794 Folsom Dam Road, Folsom, CA 95630, or fax it to 916-989-7208, or e-mail it to evasquez@mp.usbr.gov.

If you elect to remain on the mailing list, the next distribution will announce upcoming scoping meetings. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Vasquez at 916-989-7192.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
MP-140
Public Affairs Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
MP-140
Public Affairs Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

How to Contact Us

If you would like to submit a comment or if you have questions about the RMP/EIS, please send them to us:

Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez
Central California Area Office
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630-6610

Fax: 916-989-7208
E-mail: evasquez@mp.usbr.gov

For further information: Call Ms. Vasquez at (916) 988-1707

Visit the project Web site at
http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/field_offices/new_melones/index.html

In order for Reclamation to formally consider your concerns during development of alternatives for the RMP/EIS, you must submit a written comment.





***Written comments can be submitted tonight at the Comment Table
or are due to the Bureau of Reclamation by close of business
on Thursday, February 15, 2007.***

(Please print clearly)

Organization and Address _____

Phone ()_____ FAX ()_____ E-mail_____

[illegible]

All comments become part of the public record.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**Elizabeth Vasquez
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Central California Area Office
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630**

Please fold, staple, stamp, and mail